MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR :

250. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 35,730 for Irrigation Capital Account by Rs.10

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

251. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 87,242 for Willingdon Water Works by Re. 1.

MR S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :

252. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,53,000 for water Supply to the Municipal Towns of Alleppey, Nagercoil and Shencotta by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

253. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,30,000 for the Trivandrum Drainage Scheme by Re. 1.

MR A. THANU PILLAI :

254. To omit the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for water works premises.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

255. To omit the allotment of Rs. 25,000 for reconstruction and extension of Water Works Office.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR :

256. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,46,100 for Capital Expenditure not charged to Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

257. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 47,80,133 under Demand II by Re 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

258. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 47,80,133 under Demand II by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

259. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 47,80,133 under Demand II by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

260. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 47,80,133 under Demand II by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

261. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 47,80,133, under Demand II by Re. 1.

MR K. M. KRISHNAN :

262. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 47,80,133 under Demand II by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

263. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 47,80,133 under Demand II by Rs. 5.

DEMAND III—EDUCATION.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 47, 69, 866 under Demand III - Education.

Motion No. 264.

The following motion was not moved as the member was absent :—

MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR :

264. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,136 for Personal Assiatant

Motion No. 265.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

265. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,700 for Financial Assistant by Rs. 5.

Motion No. 266.

The following motion was not moved as the member was not present: —

MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR :

266. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,100 for Manager.

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Motion No. 267.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, I move that the allotment of Rs. 2,100 for Manager be omitted. In view of the fact that there is the Personal Assistant and also there is the Financial Assistant in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, I am strongly of opinion that the office of the Manager is unnecessary. The office of the Manager as well as that of the Personal Assistant is over-lapping. The duties that are to be discharged by the Personal Assistant and the Manager are one and the same.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*): What are the duties of the Manager in the Director's office?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The duties of the Manager are practically well known. My object in saying this is that Mr. Nilakanta Pillai shall not take the time of the House by making any elaborate statement with regard to the duties of the Manager.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Yes, Sir. In the Education Reforms Committe Report it is stated:—

> "In order that the routine work of the office may be properly controlled and supervised, the work and duties of the present Manager should be completely altered. The Manager should be freed from the work of assisting the Director in the disposal of official business; his office should be located near to the clerical establishment, and he should be made responsible for the quick despatch of the work of all sections, the posting, leave, work, etc. of all clerks, the signing of fair copies of letters to subordinates and the efficiency of the office generally."

With regard to the Personal Assistant, it is stated thus:—

> "The only officer at present working under the Director in the head office, *viz*, Personal Assistant, is not appointed with the intention of his ultimate promotion as Director nor even with the intention of his being able to do the duties of the Director of Public Instruction from time to time when occassions arise....."

From these no one can distinguish the duties of the Office Manager from those of Personal Assistant. The duties of the Personal Assistant are not at all defined. So I presume from this that the duties of the Personal Assistant and those of the Manager are one and the same. My suggestion is that the Office of the Manager and that of the Personal Assistant are not necessary.

I suggest in this connection that the office of Manager must be abolished and the Personal Assistant should be made the Chief Superintendent being the intermiditary between the Superintendents of the various Sections of the Director's Office and the Director of Public Instruction.

Sir, I wish to stress another point also. In view of the economic depression prevailing in the country, it is not at all proper on the part of the Government and the Director of Public Instruction to maintain this office by the abolition of which the Department will lose nothing. So with these words, I move that the allotment for the Office Manager be omitted.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Last year when this very same subject came up for discussion, the Government member told the House why the office of the Manager was quite necessary in the interest of the work which was then increasing in the Central office of Education Administration. The House was quite agreeable to the views held by the Government member then and the House granted the Demand. The circumstances that existed then have only been worsened with the result that this office is now become quite essential and absolutely necessary because it will be seen that, at the time when the motion came up for dsscussion last year,—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What is your position?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I am opposing the motion.

There was then the Deputy Director under the Director to assist him in the administration of the Department. Since then we know that that office has been abolished with the result that the volume of work that was disposed of by the Deputy Director is now devolved upon the Director and upon the Personal Assistant.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESWARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know whether it is after the last budget discussion or before that that the office of the Deputy Director was abolished?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): My impression is that it is after that.

The Education Reforms Committee's Report will show that a great deal of centralisation has to be effected in the administration of the Department for the purpose of putting into execution the various schemes contained in the Report; and, as a matter of fact, we see that, with the abolition of the posts of the two all —Travancore Inspectors with regard to Vernacular and English education in the State and the appointment in their place of several Division Inspectors, the work has been on the increase at the central office. It was also explained by the Director then that the work of the Manager is quite distinct from the work that is allotted to the Personal Assistant. We are now putting through a very broad educational scheme and we have been allotting for the purpose mor than one-fourth of the State revenue. In consideration of these circumstances, it is my view that as much facility as possible ought to be given for the Department to do full justice to the work that is entrusted to it. Therefore this post is absolutely necessary.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Mr. S. Nilakanta Pillai. To me this post in the Education Director's office seems to be a superfluous and an anomalous one. The Manager who is to control the office staff has a scale of Rs. 100-150. There are also four Superintendents on Rs. 75 to 100. Now the status of the Manager itself does not permit of any superior position by which he could effectively control the affairs of the office. Then again the existence of a Personal Assistant does not in any way

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[Mr. K. R. Elenkath.]

justify the place of the Manager. It will more or less prejudicially affect the work of the Department. An office must be completely under the control of one person. I know that the Director is ultimately responsible for the affairs of the office or of the whole Department; and to assist him there needs no saying that there must be an efficient officer in the office. But now as it is, there is a Manager and also a Personal Assistant. It was said by Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai that their functions are quite apart from one another. But, Sir, such a position, even if it is a fact, has to be objected to and would be a substantial ground for the abolition of the post, for concentration and centralisation of work in an office is essential in the discharge of the functions in any office. One evil which I should like to point out is that, when there is not sufficient work for an officer in an office, it will generally give room for the officer to come into personal contact with the Director and to have unwholesome influence over him. This is a fact which has been testified to by events which have taken place, for it is not long since one of the Personal Assistants was promoted over the heads of his senior officers.

This happened because that officer who had no tight work in his office got plenty of opportunity to closely move with the Director and curry his favour which helped him to attain his ends.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): A point of order, Sir. The motion is with regard to the post of the Manager. Mr. Elenkath is discussing about the promotion of the Personal Assistant in the Office.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I am going to prove that the existence of the Personal Assistant is sufficient for office work and does not justify the superfluous place of a manager.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The work assigned to the Manager may be given to the Personal Assistant. Is that the idea?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Yes: there are two persons in the office now to discharge the work that could be and ought to be done by one. That is the point.

Then there was the observation of Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai that, as a result of the reorganisation suggested by the Statham Committee, the work in the office is comparatively on the increase. But I should think that, so far as the recommendations that have been till now accepted are concerned, there is no room to think that the work is on the increase. On the other hand, it is fast diminishing. I shall prove that point by referring to the departmental Administration Report.

The number of private schools that existed in 1108 was 2,738. But it has as a result of the reorganisation diminished to 2,690. In the case of Departmental Schools also, there is a diminution in this way. While, in 1108, it was 1072, in 1109 it came down to 1,059; and this year presumably both departmental and private institutions are going to be considerably diminished in number.

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MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know from the member whether the school-going population has increased ?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): It has not been proportionately increasing and the departmental report itself has said that fact. They say that the increase is slight and comparatively smaller.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That does not seem to be quite relevant. What has the diminution in the number of schools to do with the work of the Manager ? That is not quite clear.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I will come to that point.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are you suggesting that the volume of correspondence has decreased ?

MR. K. R. ELENKTAH (*Kalkulam I*): My point is that the diminution in the number of institutions has affected the volume of correspondence.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In that case, you may proceed.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): The work of the Department is mainly to control private institutions which have a large volume of correspondence with the Inspectors and through the Inspectors with the Director's Office. With regard to the number of scholars, the department itself admits that this increase, while *slightly smaller than the corresponding increase in 1108*, must be regarded as satisfactory in view of the appreciable reduction in the number of institutions as against an increase of 49 institutions in 1108.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether, on account of the Inspectorate Reform, correspondence is likely to increase or decrease ?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): It is likely to increase to some extent ; but there is no doubt, when the Inspectors have been given larger powers, there is a considerable diminition of work.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I cannot permit Mr. Elenkath to answer that question. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's question was whether correspondence work is *likely* to increase. If he had put the question "whether it has increased or decreased", I am prepared to allow the question.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): There are now four Inspectors and one Inspectress besides many Assistant Inspectors.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. The Statham Committee found that much of the defects that existed in the working of the Education Department was due to the inadequate staff and defective organisation in the Office of the Director of Public Instruction. They say, "Public opinion often takes the view that overhead charges in Government departments are heavy and should be reduced. We must therefore point out that, in a department like the Education Department which is a very large expending Department and which also, unlike other departments, is responsible for the giving and controlling of very large sums by way of grant-in-aid, the reduction, or the maintenance on an inadequate basis, of the

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[Mr. R. Sambasiva Aiyar.]

directing and supervising staff, is a penny-wise pound-foolish policy". They further go on to compare the expenses of the department in Travancore with the expenses in Mysore, Hyderabad, British India and other States and they come to the definite conclusion that the staff at the Head Office has to be increased and strengthened for making the department more efficient. My submission is that it will be a penny-wise-pound-foolish policy to omit the item of Manager, for thereby the work in the Head Office would be dislocated. We find that the Manager has to control one Head-Accountant, 18 clerks and four typists and he has to see that these 18 clerks and four typists and the Head Accountant do their work properly. Therefore there is sufficient justification for the existence of the Manager. Then, Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai remarked that he was found necessary last year. My submission is there is nothing to show that this office should be abolished.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*) : May I know from the member the nature of the work of the Manager?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : The nature of the work, I do not know. I have not been in the Director's Office.

But in the report of the Education Reforms Committee, the work of the Personal Assistant has also been referred to. There you will find that the Personal Assistant is also a necessary officer who has duties to perform different from that of the Manager.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Thiruvella II*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. Sir, the Director of Public Instruction has under him about 3,500 institutions and about 10,000 subordinates. The routine work, which necessarily arises from these various number of institutions and subordinates, will be very heavy. It is but proper that a Manager is there to attend to some of this routine work. Next year the Education Director will be spending about 47·5 lakhs of rupees. If what is intended of him is merely to collect funds and disburse, it is only necessary to appoint a man who is well-versed in banking. That is not what we expect. We want the Director of Public Instruction to chalk out a policy for the Department. We are spending money both on departmental and private institutions year after year and he should chalk out a policy of advance according to the times. Sir, Mr. Statham was appointed here to chalk out a policy for the Department, because the system of education became old-fashioned and it had not been keeping pace with the times. That was the complaint. Sir, we expect the Director of Public Instruction always to advance the policy of the department with the times and not merely attend to signing papers and disposing of the money he collects in his office. So it is necessary that the Director of Public Instruction must have sufficient time to think study and chalk out the policy of the department and not merely to confine himself to the office affairs. With these words, I oppose the motion.

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MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the motion most stoutly, for I am convinced that, if this motion is carried and given effect to, it will very seriously interfere with the efficiency of the office work in the Director's Office. Those who are in the know of things in the Education Department and those who have dealings with the Director's Office would not for a moment hesitate to testify that the volume of work in the Director's office has considerably increased : and after the Reforms especially, the work of the department has been very terribly centralised.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know whether Superintendents and the Financial Assistant have not already been appointed to cope with the increasing work ?

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : I may point out, Sir, that the work has so vastly been centralised that it is necessary that the Director of Public Instruction should be assisted by not only these officers that my friend mentioned but even by more. That is my humble opinion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I want to give a direction. Questions based on opinion need not be asked. It will only take up the time of the House without giving anything substantial in return. Matters of opinion need not be questioned about.

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Before the Reforms, the Director's Office has had to deal with only two officers *viz.*, the office of the Chief Inspector of Vernacular Schools and the Chief Inspector of English Schools. Now he has to deal with four offices. *viz.* those of the four Divisional Inspectors.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : What about the Chief Inspectress's Office and the Colleges ?

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : They also have to be dealt with in the Director's Office.

So, what I want to say is that the volume of work has considerably increased. I do not know what the present Director feels about it ; but my feeling is that his work must be very killing now and as such he ought to be assisted by these officers in his office ; and therefore I once again reiterate my opinion, Sir, that, if this motion is accepted and given effect to, it will seriously interfere with the efficiency of the work.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : If it is reiterating the opinion, Mr. Joseph cannot be allowed to do that. If the member thinks that the opinion has not been distinctly expressed. I can permit him.

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): I simply emphasised my opinion, Sir. With these words, I most strongly oppose the motion.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, I oppose the motion for reasons more than one. As a result of the Reforms that have been brought into existence in the Education Department, I mean on the administrative side of the Education Department, the work in the Director's office has been centralised ; and as matters stand now, Director of Public Instruction is the hardest worked or I would say the most hard-worked officer in the State to-day !

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This is the third or fourth time that this argument is advanced on this matter. I do not want to curtail the privilege of any member to put forth his own argument, but I would say that it is a repetition. Of course, this advice may be taken into consideration by members. (Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai: *Hear hear*).

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The second reason is that the salary of the Director has been reduced to a very great extent on account of standardisation and so the Director is likely not to take much interest in the work that he has to discharge (*Laughter*). And thirdly, it seems there are various sections in the Director's office and there should be one officer to supervise the working of the various sections.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know whether the member would advocate the revival of the Deputy Directorship.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I will come to that, Sir.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know from the member whether he advocated the abolition of the Deputy Director's post during the last Budget Session?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I may say that, although a member might have taken one view at the last meeting or at any other meeting in any year, the member is at full liberty to take a different view this time.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I was not expressing views contrary to those I held during the last session.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know the reasons for changing the opinions of the member?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Reasons shall not be asked.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Even though it is quite open to me to change my opinions, I have not done so.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There should be some kind of finality in this matter. Please proceed with your argument, Mr. S. J. Nair.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The Education Reforms Committee has clearly stated that a Deputy Director is necessary in order to help the Director.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): At the time of the discussion of the Report, Mr. S. J. Nair did not advocate the establishment of the post of the Deputy Director.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have already said that these things are immaterial. I think, if the members persist in putting that kind of questions again, I will have to take a suitable line of action in the matter.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, for the information of the honourable member, permit me to say that I did not exactly advocate last year the actual abolition of the post of the Deputy Director, but only a change of the personnel.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): On a point of order, Sir. Does the question of the Deputy Director's place arise?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is not the question of relevancy. But the post known as the Deputy Director's post has been abolished and I think any mention of it again on its merits is absolutely irrelevant.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Does the member propose to hold the same view which he took last year or is he improving himself this year ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You need not answer that.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : For various reasons that I have already said, I do not support the motion. The Manager should be retained in order to look to the efficient administration of the Department which has been recently reformed according to the recommendations of the Education Reforms Committee.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Sir, I oppose the motion. The function of the Manager is to look after the routine of the office work and he is responsible for the efficient control of the office. There are Superintendents and clerks employed in the office and there should be one to supervise and control their work. His function is quite different from that of a Personal Assistant. The Personal Assistant signs papers for the Director of the Public Instruction and is to help the Director to prepare departmental circulars and to attend to other administrative work in the office. These two functions are absolutely different. I think the two offices are absolutely necessary for the efficient discharge of the set of functions.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Sir, I have to oppose the motion. There is no need, however, to make a long speech, especially in view of the fact that so many honourable members have clearly and effectively stated the grounds on which this motion should be rejected. I would only content myself with attempting to remove one or two misconceptions on the part of those who supported the motion. Mr. S. Nilakanta Pillai began by saying that the Manager and the Personal Assistant are paractically the same. Well, Sir, that is a misconception. My predecessor last year pointed out clearly, when an identical motion was before the House, that their functions were entirely different and that both the officers were necessary. And, for the further edification of the honourable members, read out to them the list of duties assigned to the Manager.

Control of the office,
Distribution of *Tapal*,
Distribution of stationery and forms for the office establishment,
Pay Bill, T. A. Bill, Contingent Bill.
Acquittance Roll, Issue and Despatch of letters,
Returns of establishment charges, and Returns of caste-war employment.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I think the list is a yard long. More important things may be selected.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the member who prepares answers to interpellations sent up to him ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The Director. The Personal Assistant assists him in answering questions relating to English Education and Vernacular Education. The Financial Assistant assists him with regard to questions relating to the financial side.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): How many interpellations on the average does the Director answer ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question need not be answered.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*); Is there any overlapping of the functions of the Personal Assistant and the Manager?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, Sir. The Director's office was a large one even before, and it was enlarged and reorganised according to the recommendations of the Education Reforms Committee. There are six sections in the office; and in that connection I would like to correct the misconception on the part of Mr. Elenkath. He said that we had appointed four new Superintendents; but, Sir, we have not appointed *n w* Superintendents. We have only changed the designation of four clerks on Rs. 75 to 100 and called them Superintendents. There has been an increase in the lower ranks of the clerical staff and there was no increase in the higher ranks. Sir, when there are six sections in the office, to supervise and control the staff of these six sections we need a Manager. He is to see that the various duties assigned to these sections are promptly carried out.

Further, the Manager himself is the head of one or two minor sections. He is the head of a section dealing with Pensions and Miscellaneous. His routine duties are so heavy that it is impossible to do without him.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I understand that the Director has very little to do with the office ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The Director has got very little directly to do with the control of the office. The Manager is responsible to him for the proper working of the office.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath argued that, in view of the reduction of the number of schools, the work in the office has decreased. I was the Deputy Director when most of these schools were abolished. Sir, these schools did not disappear by chance or accident. These schools were deliberately closed down after a good deal of preliminary investigation by the Deputy Director and the Director. If you compare the output of work before the Deputy Director's post was abolished and after, you will see the difference.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member whether the number of schools abolished after the Deputy Director's post was abolished is small ?

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MR C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Is it not because that schools which are to be abolished were diminishing in number ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : That is also true. Sir, there is absolutely no question with regard to the increasing work in the office of the Director. It is increasing and will continue to increase. Sir, two Inspectors with jurisdiction over the whole State have been replaced by four Divisional Inspectors with limited jurisdictions and reduced powers. All appointments, transfers and promotions above Rs. 25 come to use now. And every year some new schemes like the library scheme or vocational bias schools are taken up which again means increase of work. The Department has to control about 4,000 schools and about 10,000 subordinates.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*) : In view of the increasing work of the Director, does the Director of Public Instruction like to have a Deputy Director ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I have already stated that the question of the Deputy Director does not arise in this discussion. I must once again call the attention of the House to the provision in the law and rules regarding relevancy.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Does the appointment of another subordinate help the Director in minimising the work which has increased in consequence of this Reform ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, certainly.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Will not there be reduction of hands when the G. O. on the Public Service Commission is given effect to ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Sir, I presume that the Education department, will be treated as a technical department and the departmental head will be consulted in the making of appointments of teachers. Then there are promotions, with which the Public Service Commissioner is not concerned.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : May I know from the member whether there is not a necessity for the question of decentralisation to be considered seriously ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Sir, if you decentralise the department, the head of the department loses grip. That was what happened before the Reforms. The Education Department lost grip completely over the working of the schools ; and the Inspectorate and the Head office did not know what was going on. For the framing of policy it is necessary that the head office should have an adequate knowledge of the facts concerning each section of the department. Sir, the whole trouble in the Education Department has been that it had no policy. It had no policy because it had

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no intimate knowledge of the working of the department throughout the State. If decentralisation is effected now, the departmental head will again become largely a figure-head. And he will have no real control over the shaping of the policy of the department. It was on these grounds that the new policy has been deliberately adopted. Of course, it means enormous work, extremely heavy work. Sir, if you compare the Education Department of Mysore or Hyderabad, you will see that our head office here is understaffed. In Mysore, they have got a Director, a Deputy Director, a Lady Assistant and a Financial Assistant; and in Hyderabad.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, order.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Will the member advocate the appointment of a Lady Assistant ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): If you take Madras, you will see that the Director is assisted by three Deputy Directors besides a Personal Assistant.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is there not decentralisation effected in Madras ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, in Madras, primary education is largely under local bodies. But ere it is under Government

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nomintaed*): Is there similar centralisation in those places also ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Not to the same extent as here, Sir; because all their primary schools and even high schools are under District Boards and other local bodies. Most of our educational institutions are under Government control. Therefore our work is naturally more heavy. Even if it is a question of the addition of a new class to a primary school, here the paper has to come to the Head Office.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is it not possible to entrust the Inspectors with more responsible work ? They are responsible officers.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That can only be done gradually. After the reforms, the policy of the department is now being shaped. The officers of the department must get used to the new policy. Even now we are having complaints about the refusal of grant memos and such other matters. It is only after some years that the question of giving more powers to the Inspectors can be taken up for consideration.

I submit, Sir, that it is an utter misconception to say that the work of the Head Office has diminished because the number of schools has diminished.

I hope the House will throw out the motion.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): I move that the question be now put.

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MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): In view of the explanation given by the Director of Public Instruction, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 268.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Is that in order, Sir?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Unless Mr. Padmanabha Pillai is able to explain that it is in order, I shall have to rule it out. I want to give Mr. Padmanabha Pillai a chance to explain his position in a brief statement.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Sir, my motion is to reduce one rupee from the sum of Rs 7,936 for salaries under Direction. Sir, this amount does not refer to the salary of any particular officer. It is the total votable salary under Direction. Sir, the function of the department rests with the Director: and therefore I submit that the most proper place for making this cut is under Direction, especially in the salaries under Direction. I have brought forward this motion to reduce the total votable salary under Direction. I claim that this is the most proper place for discussing this subject-matter.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In page 92 of the Budget there are two heads, Director's salary Rs. 10,993, and three other items, Rs. 3,136, Rs. 2,700 and Rs. 2,100. At the bottom of the page you find there are two totals. One is Rs. 10,993 being the Director's salary. Below that you find Rs. 7,936 being the total of the other three items. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai's motion seeks to reduce the latter total, namely, Rs. 7,936. It does not form part of the Director's salary. His subordinate officers have nothing to do with the question of sanctioning grants-in-aid to V. P. Schools. The motion is therefore not in order.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Sir, before you say your final word—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have already given my ruling.

The following motion was declared not in order:

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

268. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,936 for salaries by Re. 1.

Motions Nos. 269 to 272.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

269. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 19,610 for establishment (Permanent) by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI:

270. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 19,610 for establishment (Permanent) by Rs. 5.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:

271. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:

272. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

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Motion No. 273

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your motion, Mr. Velayudhan Pillai. is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by one rupee, to discuss the desirability of reducing the school fees by 50 per cent. till the normal economic conditions are restored. I am inclined to think that it is not admissible, unless you make out a case the other way.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : സർ, ഡയറക്ടർ തിരുവിതാംകൂറൊട്ടുക്കു സഞ്ചരിച്ചു വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ രക്ഷകത്താക്കളുടെ സാമ്പത്തികാവസ്ഥ ശരിയായി മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അദ്ദേഹംതന്നെ ഫീസിൽ ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു തുക ഇളവുചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു ശുപാർശചെയ്യുകയും തന്നിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഒരു വലിയ സഹായം ലഭിക്കുകയുംചെയ്യുമായിരുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരികയെന്നുള്ളതാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപംകൊണ്ടുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That resolves itself into a question of the Director's appreciation of the economic situation. It amounts to an invitation to the Director to acquaint himself with the details of the prevailing economic depression to enable him to make formal proposals on the subject. To my mind, that is not relevant. (Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai : *Hear, hear.*)

The following motion was therefore ruled out of order :

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

273. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

Motions Nos. 274 and 275

The following motions were also ruled out of order :

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

274. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

275. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

Motion No. 276

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

The object of my motion is to point out that the Director, in his tours, should bestow greater attention than at present on the grant-in-aid institutions, in order to change his policy towards them.

Sir, in this State, as could be seen clearly from the Report, it is the grant-in-aid institutions that have contributed so much to the literacy of the people. The Travancore Government and the people of Travancore, if they are now in a position to pride themselves that they are so much advanced in education as compared with the rest of India, they owe it to these grant-in-aid institutions mostly. But we find that, because

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the Director of Public Instruction does not bestow sufficient attention upon these institutions, they do not progress well. The Director, in answer to a question put by me today, said that, though it was brought to his notice that grants to certain institutions had been withdrawn on the ground of financial strigency and though he was aware that such an order was irregular, he has not cancelled the withdrawal of the grant and has substituted some other ground for sticking to his order withdrawing the grant. He admits that financial stringency is not a ground for refusing grant-in-aid. But he says that the Assistant Inspector concerned has told the Manager that there was some other ground also for withdrawing the grant.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I said that the Assistant Inspector blundered in the matter and was reprimanded for it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That makes considerable difference.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Anyhow, Sir, the grant has been refused. I submit that the Director of Public Instruction does not pay sufficient attention to these grant-in-aid institutions. Sir, Government are contributing only a share of the expenditure incurred by the managements of these institutions. With regard to aided primary schools, for instance, the Government contribute only Rs. 8 or 8½ for each teacher in a primary school.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are these not facts which the Director can understand even if he does not travel? (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The teachers have to pull on; and my submission is that, if the Director actually visits these institutions, he will be able to realise that -

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You suggest that, by personal observation on the spot, the Director will be able to realise the real needs of these institutions?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I suppose that is what you maintain?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, Sir. If, n his tours, the Director visits these institutions, he will find that, without Government aid, it is practically impossible for the managements to run them. Last year there was persistent demand, in this House as well as in the Council, that all the recognised institutions in the State, which are run efficiently and which are in need of grants-in-aid, must be given grants. Sir, from 1106 onwards, many managements have been running institutions with the hope of receiving grants-in-aid. Government have been making promises also. But the Director has been complaining that he has not got sufficient funds. At page 91 of the administration report of the Education Department for 1109, it is stated thus "Maintenance grants to private Schools amounted Rs. 9,84,464 against Rs. 9,25,021 in 1108. The figure for the total maintenance grant paid could not be reconciled with the departmental accounts and according to the Departmental figures the amount of maintenance grant was only Rs. 9,47,404 in 1109". Why this disparity in

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figures and what is the explanation for the difference of Rs. 37,060? In any case the Department admits that, for 1109, Rs. 9,47,404 was spent? But what is the amount in this year's budget?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us not stress that point further.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): This year the provision is only for Rs. 9,00,000. I submit, Sir, it is the duty of the Director to go round the country, to ascertain the real condition of the grant-in-aid institutions and to bring home to Government that, unless more funds are provided for grants-in-aid, the educational advancement of the country would come to a stand-still.

So what I am submitting is that more attention must be paid by the Director to this matter, and that the Government must be compelled to provide all the amounts that are necessary for paying grant-in-aid at least to all the Vernacular Primary Schools in the State With these words, I move the motion.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Sir, I support the motion. It is a well-known fact that the primary school teachers in aided schools have practically to depend upon the grant that is given by the Government. The best managers in our State are those that do not rob any money that is given to them as grant. The grant is only a sum of Rs. 8½ for a teacher. Therefore these primary school teachers have to depend upon this Rs. 8½ for all their necessities. If the Director of Public Instruction was making a proper use of this, I am sure that he will find that the most pitiable creature he comes across is the primary school student and, if there is any one who is more pitiable, it is the primary school teacher. The system of giving the grants have always been unsatisfactory, both with regard to the amount and with regard to the serious difficulty in getting it. It is rather a very inconvenient and unsatisfactory arrangement that is followed in the matter of giving the grant. At the present time, owing to various circumstances, the difficulties have been aggravated. After the reforms were put into effect, a rule was enforced that the grant amount must be renewed every year. The Director, I am sure, made this rule with the best of notives. But in actual experience that has again fallen as an additional burden on the head of the teachers. Naturally, applications come in at the beginning of the year. A few months pass before sanction is given. And during all these months, the teachers have to go on without getting any salary.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The member's point is that local inspection will obviate a delay in sanctioning the grant?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): If the Director goes to the schools, I am quite sure that one with a drop of humanity in his heart will be tempted to act with greater sympathy towards them. Repeated reference was made in this Assembly, in this

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very meeting, about a very curious order given by some of the Assistant Inspectors to the managers. What is underlying that order I do not know. One fact is quite clear and that is that the Assistant Inspectors gave explicit orders that grants were withheld because of financial stringency. I am glad the Director assures us that it was not so and that there was a misunderstanding on the part of the Asssistant Inspectors. But the natural and logical conclusion from that is that the withheld grants should have been released. But the grants have not been released. Whatever might have been the real underlying notice, practically the managers and teachers find themselves where they have been when the grants were originally withheld.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know the number of schools for which grants-in-aid were withheld?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): I do not know.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*): The amount withheld?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): I do not know.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What Mr. Thanu Pillai wants is some approximate figure.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): I do not know. Sir, I have made some statements and I may assure that I have stated them upon my own responsibility.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I want to put you on your guard. You said that you make those statements on your own responsibility, but the weight which may be attached to them will depend upon the due care and caution exercised by you.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): I very seldom speak words without caution and I spoke these words fully realising my responsibility.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Due care and caution implies some investigation of certain facts which were available. That is the idea.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Personally speaking, I do not require to make any investigation. I have got the order itself in my hand. My request to the Assembly is that this Assembly should bring to bear its whole weight on the Director and see that the department is more prompt and more sympathetic in the matter of sanctioning grants. One particular point that the Assembly must remember is that, whatever be the insult or disgrace that will fall upon the managers, ultimately the whole pain of the situation will rebound upon the heads of the teachers and the sympathy that these teachers deserve alone is a satisfactory reason for the members to accept this motion, and to bind the hands of the Director in this matter, so that in his future actions at least there may be greater promptness and sympathy in the matter of disburaing the grants.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Since the Director alone seems to be in a position to give us accurate information in this matter, I would suggest that he may be asked to speak because the mover and the supporter have already spoken.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT. I think that is a very good thing if the Director is inclined to speak.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I am afraid I have to oppose the motion, though I have very great sympathy with the object with which the mover and the other speaker have brought forward this motion. In 1106, Sir, the grant allotment for private vernacular schools was Rs. 11 lakhs, in 1107 it was 10 lakhs, in 1108 it was Rs. 9½ lakhs, in 1109 it was Rs. 9½ lakhs, in 1110 it was Rs. 9,20,000 and for 1111 it is Rs. 9 lakhs.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it for primary schools alone?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instrucion*): It is for private vernacular schools. It will be obvious, Sir, to the House that, if even small sum sf Rs. 1,000 is reduced from the allotment asked for, three or four primary schools will suffer.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know the number of schools which receive this grant of Rs. 11 lakhs?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is given in the administration report. It is about 2,000.

Well, all that I can say, Sir, is that the department is giving grants to private schools as liberally as possible to the extent to which funds are available. Especially since the reforms, no amount under grant is allowed to lapse. We are making an attempt to issue the grant memos as early as possible. On one or two occasions, especially when I was acting as Director on the last occasion, there was a small balance towards the end of the year and I got the special permission of Government to give grants to the 1106 and 1107 schools.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether the amount in the budget represents the amount recommended by the Director or whether it represents an amount as reduced by the Government?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think they are all more or less confidential matters.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I believe I am answering on behalf of Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know why the amount of the grant is going down from year to year?

MR. C. V CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Financial stringency. Government are not able to provide the funds, especially when honourable members reduce the fees in schools and ask for further reduction of fees which means a considerable loss in the receipts under Education.

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): When were the fees reduced during the last four years and how many times were they reduced?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I was speaking of the present reduction in the allotment.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know from the member why the amount of the grant was being gradually reduced from Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 9 lakhs?

The members says that honourable members asked for reduction of fees. I want to know in which of these years between 1106 and 1109 the school fees were reduced.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): They were reduced in 1110, Sir. I was explaining the reduction in the allotments in 1110 and 1111.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know the reason why the grant of 11 lakhs came down to 9½ lakhs when there was no reduction of fees?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is due to general financial stringency.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): It was not because honourable members wanted to reduce the fees then or to do anything wrong?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think the official member did not make any such suggestion.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) He made a suggestion capable of that interpretation.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any suggestion of that nature reflecting upon the conduct of a member of this House, the member may rest assured, will not be permitted.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I never meant any reflection, Sir. I meant it more or less as a humorous remark.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Has there been a reduction, corresponding to the reduction in the grant-in-aid, in all the other items of expenditure?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, Sir, there is a general reduction.

As I have said, Sir, I have very great sympathy for the primary school teachers and especially for the private primary school teachers. I am sure Government are anxious to do as much as they can possibly do in the present circumstances for helping these primary schools.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it because Government thought that a deficit budget should not be introduced, that they stinted this expenditure?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I cannot allow it. The Director of Public Instruction is not concerned with that policy of Government.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): On a point of personal explanation. He is speaking on behalf of Government and I therefore put the question to him.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Why Government reduced a thing does not arise.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know how the schools are selected for disbursing grants?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There is a general educational policy. Under the reforms, if one and two class schools are found to be unnecessary and overlapping, an enquiry should be made with regard to the accommodation in the neighbouring schools. A report is submitted by the Assistant Inspecting officer and also by the Divisional Inspector to the Director; and if the Director thinks that there is no necessity for these schools, then it is ordered that those schools may be closed or the grant is withheld. That is one reason for withholding the grant. Another reason is, for instance, if a school is unsatisfactory and inefficient with poor strength and poor attendance, several surprise visits are made. If one surprise visit is made and the Inspector finds that the strength of the class and the attendance are poor, the Inspector is asked to make more surprise visits. And if the attendance and strength is poor, on that ground again the grant is withheld. Another ground is non-fulfilment of conditions for a long time. A condition was imposed, say, in 1105 and extensions of time have been given to the manager from year to year to see that the condition is fulfilled. But he keeps dodging the department and does not fulfil the condition. Sooner or later, action has to be taken; and after the second or third warning, if the condition is not fulfilled, the Inspector takes action and the grant is withheld.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know from the member whether there are cases in which grants-in-aid are withheld purely on financial grounds?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, Sir. I have already stated that.

MR. A. THANU PILDAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Then may I know why the Director should feel himself sympathetic towards the school managers?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Qublic Instruction*): I was not sympathetic towards those schools for which grants were withheld for proper reasons. In 1106 for the first time Government ordered on account of financial stringeny that no grant should be given to new schools. Since 1106, new schools and new classes which are coming up get an order from the Director:—

"That grant is not guaranteed and it is exceedingly unlikely."

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): Am I to understand that there are schools in respect of which there is no discontinuance of a grant because it was never granted?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know the number of such schools ?

MR. C. V. CHLNDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There must be more than 100 schools in various stages, one-class, two-class and three-class schools and complete schools.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : Even if there is an absolute necessity in a locality for a school and the Government is not prepared to start a departmental school, suppose a local man starts a school—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is a hypothetical question.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : I will put it in another way. What were the considerations which made the Department not to show such a concession ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Want of funds. The allotment is just suffiicient to give grants to existing schools from year to year.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know what the Department are doing to provide educational facilities in places where schools are not available ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : They hope that gentlemen like Mr. Padmanabhan will tap the sources of private philanthropy in those areas

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : If philanthropic public men are coming forward for opening schools. –

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Chandrasekharan, have you any objection to omit the words "like Mr. Padmanabhan" ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : No, Sir.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : If men come forward, cannot the Government also give grant to those schools ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, Sir. Government will give them help when the financial condition improves. But, as things are, grants cannot be guaranteed to them. Even now, if the Director finds that some money that is allotted to the Department is going to lapse, he will see that that money is utilised for giving grants. It is not due to want of desire or willingness to help.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : At least in the next budget will the Government make provision for grants to schools in theseareas ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : This discussion relates to the present budget and not to the next budget.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*) : From the statement made by the Director, I find that there has been a gradual decline in the grant. Do Government maintain a policy of reducing the grant by degrees and then wiping it away altogether ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : No. Government might reduce the rates of grant so as to give grants to more schools.

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MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): I want to know whether any such policy is being maintained by Government?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, Sir.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is there any instance in which the grant once sanctioned has been withheld by the Department otherwise than for proper and cogent reasons?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Not to my knowledge, Sir.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry I*): May I know whether it was withheld for cogent reasons?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, Sir.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*: May I know whether it was brought to the notice of the Director that a number of orders had been issued by Assistant Inspectors to the effect that the grant has been withdrawn on the ground of financial stringency alone?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): If Mr. Asan will mention the name of the school, I shall be able to give the reasons for withholding grants.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know the number of orders issued to Managers to the effect that the grant is withdrawn on account of financial stringency?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You want to know whether it is a considerable number.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, Sir.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is not a considerable number, sir. There are two or three instances in the Quilon Division. I have not got full information at my figgers' ends.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Was it not the position of the Government member that grants had to be reduced on account of financial stringency?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Mr. Asan's point is that a grant memo having been issued, and the grant having been promised for the whole year, it was not proper to stop it in the middle of the year. I think that was his point.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I want to know the number of institutions in respect of which the grant was withdrawn on account of financial stringency.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag Director of Public Instruction*): That was because the Divisional Inspector's or Assistant Inspectors might have misinterpreted the Director's orders. One consideration Honourable members should bear in mind is that last year the Inspectorate was reorganised As a result of this reorganisation, the files in the officers of the Inspector of English Schools and of the Inspector of Vernacular schools at Trivandrum had to be arranged and redistributed

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As a result of this reorganisation, there must have been some confusion and dislocation of work. Some Assistant Inspectors, not having correct information with regard to particular schools, might have issued memos when there were no files available to them. These discrepancies were due last year to the reorganisation of the Inspectorate. I can assure Mr. Damodaran Asan that such difficulties will not arise in future. Now that the Inspectorate has been reorganised, matters have settled down and the system will work smoothly in future.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In cases in which the grants were once withdrawn by the Assistant Inspectors on the ground of financial stringency, and subsequently attempted to be supported by some other reason, will the Director restore the original grant ?

MR. C V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : If funds are available, in all deserving cases, it will be restored.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the mistake has arisen in any Division other than the Quilon Division ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : There have been cases in Trivandrum also.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know the reason why two of the seniormost Divisional Inspectors mistook the Director's communication ? What was wrong in that communication ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : As I said, the files might not have been before the Assistant Inspectors when they issued those orders.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Why not they copy the orders and communicate them to the Assistant Inspectors ? Is it a fact that these Divisional Inspectors would not have comitted these mistakes if they had copied the Director's orders ? I want to know if the Inspectors communicated copies of the Director's order or gave the orders in their own wording ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : I am not quite familiar with the intricacies of the trouble. I think some Inspectors communicated copies of the Director's orders. Other Inspectors held conferences with the Assistant Inspectors and gave personal instructions.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Is it a fact that conferences were held in the Divisional Inspectors' offices at Trivandrum and Quilon for this purpose ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) I only surmised that conferences might have been held.

MR. K. C. ABRAHAM (*Kottayam II*): Is it a fact that the Department cuts away a portion of the grant before payment when the grant has accumulated in arrears ?

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MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, it does. It is never done without reason. Under the new rules, any withholding or stopping of the grants can only be done by the Head Office. The Assistant Inspectors have no power. The Divisional Inspectors can only stop it temporarily, pending the sanction of the Head Office.

MR. K. C. ABRAHAM (*Kottayam II*) : In cases of conflict between the management of a school and the Department, when a grant has been withheld by the Department, is it a fact that, when payment is subsequently made, a portion of the grant owing to the school is cut away ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Not without good reason.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : In cases of refusal of grants, does the Director personally satisfy himself before any final order is passed by him ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : May I take this opportunity to say that the Director of Public Instruction has been standing a searching fire of cross-examination? No doubt, questions were quite relevent and were allowed. I certainly think that questions may arise in later stages also. Considering the importance of the matter and considering that more questions may be asked hereafter, the Director may be allowed to make his statement first and then questions may be put to him.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : I have very little more to say. Mr. Kainikkara Padmanabha Pillai referred to the delay in the renewal of grant memos. I am aware of that. The old practice allowed many abuses to creep into the whole Primary School system. When grants were renewed only once in three years, the schools remained uninspected. And schools which were unsatisfactory were allowed to receive grants. So, annual inspection is absolutely necessary for efficient primary education in the State. Again budgetary rules do not permit of grants being given for three years together. We are budgetting from year to year. Therefore, we cannot give grant memos for three years at a time. But I can assure the House that the delays will be avoided as far as possible. Already I have taken steps to see that the grant memos are kept ready for issue not later than the end of Kanni.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*) : May I know whether it will not be possible for the department to allow the private schools to send their application for renewal of grants after the reopening of the school in the month of Edavam or Mithunam ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): But the Budget has to be sanctioned by the Legislature. The Director has to know what the allotment for grants is. Before I can

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authorise the issue of grantmemos, I have to know how the allotment can be distributed between the Divisional Inspectors and their assistants.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*) : My point is, could not the final sanction be postponed till the Budget is over ? Is it not possible for the department to disburse the amount after the details are checked ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAM (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : That is what has been done. The annual inspections are all over and I have ordered that the grants may be paid on the basis of the annual inspection.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : I move that the question be now put.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I think this question has not been sufficiently discussed.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : At first I did not think of participating myself in this discussion. After hearing the speeches of some of the members and the trend of discussion, I am rather compelled to speak. It has been stated by the Director that, in regard to refusal of grants for newly started schools, financial stringency is the reason assigned. Whereas, in regard to withdrawal of grants and the refusal of grants so far as the existing schools are concerned, he says that there are other reasons for that. The Director said that the department refused grants to several primary schools which were enjoying grants for the past so many years, for the reason that they were not conforming to departmental rules. The Director has also said that, whenever the schools were in a mismanaged condition then also grants were refused. The very fact of the existence of schools is due to the fact that they have been receiving grants. All troubles in connection with the delay of grants and the withdrawal of grants have arisen only recently, either this year or the last year. The Director has often been saying that he is not in possession of sufficient funds.

Of course, it may not always be possible for private schools to comply strictly with the requirements of departmental rules. It is a well-known fact that the departmental schools are in a worse condition in the matter of conforming to rules. Therefore what I am aiming at is, the department is trying to find fault with the managers of private schools simply with a view to find out a reason for refusing grants. (Mr. A S. Damodaran Asan: *Hear, hear*) Sir, we have been hearing many complaints from various managers of private schools that their grants were either withdrawn, or their grant memos being delayed and all that. When I asked a question to the Director whether it is the policy of the department to refuse grants to newly started schools, he said that it is the policy. Sir, I had occasion to come in contact.—

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : I will offer a word of explanation. I did not say like that. I said that Government intend to give grants to new schools whenever the financial condition improves.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Director's word in explanation of what he said is final.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I understand that all applications for starting new schools which are sanctioned by the Director are sanctioned on the express understanding that no grants could be given. That is a very hard rule. That is a policy of discouraging private agencies to come forward to start new schools. In some places, there are schools where they may not be necessary. But there are areas where schools are an absolute necessity; and the Director says that the department is not prepared to start schools of their own. Under these circumstances, if private agencies come forward to start schools, why should there be a condition that no grants could be given? That is merely discouraging private enterprise. Why not the department say in the order of sanction that they could give grants when funds are available? Why should there be written "grant is exceedingly unlikely".

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: So you want to tack it on to travelling allowance.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): If there is no primary school between a distance of 5 or 6 miles, I am sure a school is a necessity there. If a man comes forward stating that he can start a school, every encouragement should be given by the Government to that proposal. I will put it in a concrete form. There is a V. M. School at Warkala. Next there is a school at Vakkom. Both these schools are congested There are complaints that there is not sufficient accommodation. Still the department is remaining silent. There is a dire necessity for a Vernacular Middle School in that locality. The distance between Warkala and Vakkom is about 8 to 10 miles. There is an area of about 5 to 10 sq. miles in the intervening space. Either the department should come forward and start a school or they should permit agencies coming forward and give them grants.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Has not one such school been started?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Yes. That was done very recently and the order says that grant is exceedingly unlikely. I say that policy is bad. If the Director is good enough to go over there and examine the conditions, I am sure he will be convinced of the necessity for a school there.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: So you deliberately make things relevant.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I am placing a fact for the consideration of the House If the Director will come and witness that locality, I am certain he would allow grant to the school newly strarted at Vilabhagom.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): In supporting this motion, I wish to make one or two remarks. I think it is the right of every child born in this country to receive free primary education and it is the duty of the State to provide such education.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I must say that the question of compulsory education does not arise because this discussion centres on the question of grants to schools.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): I am not speaking on compulsory education at all. All that I say is, it is the duty of the State to see that education is brought within the reach of all people. If the State is not able to provide education for all children, it is all the more reason when the people come forward to share this responsibility of Government by starting schools. It is the duty of Government to encourage such charitable people in all manner of ways and give them grants-in-aid which they deserve. From the figures quoted by the Director for the year 1106, we find that the grant-in-aid is progressively diminishing. He has also stated that, in the case of new primary schools started, even though the Government are very sympathetic, they are not able to help with grants-in-aid on acconnt of financial stringency. This financial stringency has been the reason not only for the progressive diminution of the amount of grants-in-aid already given to the existing schools but also for refusing aid to new schools started by the people. When it is the duty of the Government to see that facilities for primary education are afforded to every boy in the school, it is deplorable that the Government are not able to spend money to help people who come forward to supplement the efforts of Government in this direction. If Government say that there are no funds and therefore they cannot help, I submit the Goverument are not properly discharging their duty. It is the duty of Government to retrench expenditure in all manner possible and spend for nation-building activities. We ask for grants-in-aid for private schools. Government answer "no funds". We ask that dilapedated school buildings may be repaired; again the answer is "no funds", we ask for more communications and we are met with the answers "no funds". If that is so, I ask Sir, what is the justification, in this time of economic depression, for spending Rs, 4 lakhs for Murajapam, Rs. 2 lakhs for Military barracks, Rs 3 lakhs for State Charities, &c.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): I am only saying these are directions in which retrenchment is possible and it is quite unjustifiable that Government should incur expenditure, huge expenditure, in these directions, when there are not adequate funds for nation-building activities such as Education, Public Works and Public Health; these must be the first charge on the Revenues of the State.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Director of Public Instruction, whose travelling allowance we are at, is not able to shape the financial policy ot Government with regard to the omission of certain items or the provision of other items.

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MR. CHANGANACHERRY K. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Kunnathur* cum *Pathanapuram*): I only wish to say that the Government are not justified in saying that there are no funds for nation-building activities, when they are spending money unnecessarily and wastefully for meaningless ceremonies and so on. I say therefore the duty of Government is to see that enough funds are provided for nation-building activities; and it is not right to say that there are no funds, When they say so, they have surrendered their responsibility and their position.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, the Director was assuring the House that he is quite in sympathy with private managers. I submit it is an irony of fate that the private school managers, who were once applauded by the public and the Government, are now reduced to helpless condition. Private persons have invested considerable amounts from their own pockets and constructed necessary buildings and furnished all necessary appliances. Government have only to give very small amounts as a sort of subsidy. When our country was backward in education, the Government thought it wise to encourage private agencies. They readily responded to the call. The Government unconditionally undertook to distribute subsidies to these schools. The impetus thus created by the Government had its desired effect. Several persons ungradgingly spent money and constructed schools. Subsequently when many people had committed themselves in this enterprise, when they had made substantial investment in building, appliances and apparatus, the Government had assumed a policy of suppression. Originally there was a definite assurance on the part of the Government to distribute grants to these institutions Now the position is that private agencies, who have done so much for the advancement of education in the State are discouraged. Their philanthropic endeavours are seriously questioned. This is the position of these managers. The Government now, without any sufficient reason, withdraw or cancel or withhold grant. It has become exceedingly difficult for private agencies to conduct schools now. Sir, this is the position of the private schools. Our Government is boasting that more than 40 per cent. of our people are literate and that our State is one of the foremost States in India in point of literacy. This advancement in education is mainly due to the contributions of private individuals. Though most of these institutions have been started by men with charitable dispositions, yet they counted much on the assurance given by Government that they would issue grant to their schools. Since 1106, many schools have been built by private agencies and the Department has accorded sanction to conduct these schools. But there is an invariable condition in the memos, issued to these schools, that the Department does not guarantee the payment of grants. The department does not definitely say whether they would give grant or not. This is a sorry plight. Why do Government give hope when they could not positively assure them? I think Government will do better if they issue a circular or an order to persons who apply for schools that hereafter no grant will be given to any institutions so that much heart-rending may have been avoided. My friend Mr. Asan

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clearly represented the case of poor teachers who have the misfortune to serve in these schools. Their condition is really deplorable. They are not paid for many years. I request the Government to have pity upon these teachers; and distribute grants to these institutions without delay. If the Government could not find their way out to help these poor persons, it would be a great relief, if they would issue an order to stop all these institutions. I am sure that it will be a positive good for these half-starved teachers. With these words, I support the motion.

MR E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Sir, this is a question which deserves some degree of scrutiny at the hands of this House, because certain allegations are made, which *prima facie* are justifiable, against the Education Department in regard to the encouragement reasonably granted by the Department to private institutions in the matter of supplying educational facilities. The Department of Education exists exclusively and entirely for the supply of educational facilities to the people. That is a question which is beyond all doubt. These private school managers have come to the front. It is claimed that those who are starting these private educational institutions are people actuated by the highest ideas and sentinents of helping their illiterate brethren. Therefore, it ought to be aken for granted that these people are inspired by the noblest ideas and the highest ideals of supplying their brethren with educational facilities and it is they who now say "Give us money, or else we would stop our activities." We spend about one-fourth of the State revenue on education. Their is no case made out that even a pie out of the amount allotted for Education Department is spent unnecessarily. No case has been made out that a pie out of this amount is spent unnecessarily. We cannot travel beyond the province of the Education Department and then refer to Murajapam and other things. It is entirely irrelevant.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I do not want Mr. E. V. Kriahna Pillai, to make any observation because, when Mr. Changanacherry Parameswaran Pillai mentioned that fact, there was not much relevancy in the matter.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Sir, I bow down to the ruling of the Chair.

It is a cogent argument that is put forth. In as much as no member has made out a case that the Education Department is spending even a single pie unnecessarily in other directions, certainly it should not be heard to say that the Department is in any way failing in the matter of giving encouragement to private agencies.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : I have a question.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : I do not yield.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You just hear the question and then decide whether you should answer it or not.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is it the member's view that this House should not ask to allot more funds for the purpose of giving more grants ?

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : There is absolutely no case made out. That is the difficulty. In connection with a case that has now come up to the High Court with which Mr. Padmanabhan is concerned, Justice Pandalai had to observe that these private institutions are run as a sort of commercial enterprise.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Let me make a request. Though reference to a judgment of the High Court with regard to a case may be permissible, I do not think reference to individual Judges is justifiable. Will Mr. Krishna Pillai withdraw his statement?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Certainly I withdraw. If, as a matter of fact, these gentlemen are prompted by the noblest ideas of supplying the educational necessities of the people, why should they compalin that they are not given more and more money? So it is a question which we have to consider apart from all other considerations which are all hollow; and we should in all sincerity face the problem and admit that the Department of Education has been doing all that it could in the matter of affording encouragement to education in the State. If these managers of private schools cannot make both ends meet, let them find out funds in their own way. Why should the Government be bothered? I strongly oppose the motion, Sir.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Sir, I wish to make a few observations on this motion. To me it appears to be a very important point that has been raised. Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai asked whether any one had complained that the Education budget is not properly framed and whether the allotment has not been properly used. Is there any complaint, he asked, that the amount allotted for education is spent on times which could be avoided. This matter is one which has to be examined. I wish to put a question whether adequate funds are provided for primary education. It appears to me that it is the primary duty of the Government to provide all facilities for primary education. Government cannot say that they have no funds for primary education Of course, reference was made here to other matters. It is a matter for the Government to consider about the utmost amount they could provide for education. But it is very important that primary education is made the first concern in respect of education. Have they done so? Provision is made for grants to Colleges. At a time like this what is the necessity for providing Rs. 30,000 for that purpose?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : It is Rs. 12,000.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Yes, they provide Rs. 12,000 for grants to Colleges. It is their policy, probably a well-considered policy, to provide facilities for college education only to the best students. They are restricting the admission in the Colleges on the ground of the incapacity or the unfitness of the students, even though there is accommodation. At a time of financial stringency like this, why should they provide funds for grants to private Colleges. They could have provided that amount for grants to the primary schools. Then again with regard to English education, I ask the

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question, why, if they are not able to allot sufficient funds for primary education, they should think of aiding private English Schools. My point is that they should make primary education a first charge on their provision. I wish to know whether the Director is prepared to accept that. That is the point that I wish to place before the House.

Suppose a certain allotment is made for primary education, I would suggest that that amount should be equitably distributed. I think all areas can be equally served if distribution is made more or less equitably. With these words, I support the motion.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*) : Sir, I support the motion. It has been admitted that grants were refused for many institutions on the ground of financial stringency. It was stated by the Director that there has been a great deal of decline in the grant for the last few years; and when asked, he said that Government do not maintain the policy that the grant should be reduced. So I take it from him that it is only due to financial stringency that grants are disallowed and not on account of any other reasons. Of course, if we get out of the financial stringency, it is hoped that Government will be treating these institutions with the same concessions as they have been doing before. The Director was alluding to the fact that it was out of financial stringency that the grants were not allotted. It is seen from the Gazette that there have been withdrawals of grant and recognition of certain schools. I think it may not be due to financial stringency. It may be perhaps due to grounds other than financial stringency, such as overlapping, etc. Anyhow my point is to impress upon the Director the necessity to see in his tours that the institutions that are denied grants should be inspected by him personally and that the reports of the subordinate officers should not be relied on for grants not being given.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Is it possible ?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*) : There are not so many institutions. The thing is that we are doing away with certain institutions by withdrawing the grants and the recognition. We are doing away with these institutions. That is just like putting out the life of human beings. These institutions should be inspected by the Director himself. It is only rarely such a thing takes place.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Has not the Manager of the school full opportunity to place his case before the Director?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*) : Yes. It is only when he places such a case before the Director, that the Director has to attend to that matter?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know whether the manager of a private school will dare to incur the displeasure of the Divisional Inspector or any other officer?

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*) : Certainly not. Of course he will not attempt to do anything which will cause displeasure. So what I point out is that the Director must himself bestow greater attention in the matter of denying grants to institutions.

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MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഭൂനികുതി വസ്തുവിന്മേൽ ഏതുപ്രകാരം ആദ്യ ചാർജ്ജായിരിക്കുന്നുവോ അതുപോലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഭണ്ഡാഗാരത്തിന്മേൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു ആദ്യചാർജ്ജുണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ മുന്നണിയിൽ നിൽക്കുന്ന എന്നുള്ള പദവിക്കു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ അർഹമാക്കിത്തീർത്തതു പ്രൈവറ്റുവിദ്യാലയങ്ങളുടെ ധാരാളമായ വർദ്ധനയും നടത്തിപ്പുമാണെന്നുള്ളതു് ആരും വിസ്മരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല; അതായതു മിഷനറിമാരുടേയും മറ്റു മഹാമനസ്കന്മാരുടേയും അശ്രാന്തപരിശ്രമത്തിൽ പ്രൈവറ്റുവിദ്യാലയങ്ങൾ ധാരാളം നടത്തിയിട്ടില്ലായിരുന്നുവെന്നുവരുകിൽ തീർച്ചയായും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന് ഈ പ്രശസ്തിനില ഒരിക്കലും കിട്ടുകയില്ലായിരുന്നു.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : This is the tenth time that I am listening to this argument.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : I did not say that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You did not say; but others did.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : എനിക്ക് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെയും ഈ സഭയുടെയും ഗാഢമായ ആലോചനക്കു വിഷയീഭവിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ള ഒരു പ്രധാന സംഗതി ഇതാണ്. രണ്ടുമൂന്നു മൈലിനകത്തു് സർക്കാർ വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളോ മറ്റു ഗ്രാൻറുവിദ്യാലയങ്ങളൊ ഇല്ലാത്ത ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു് കുട്ടികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസൌകര്യത്തിനായി ആരെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുവാദത്തോടുകൂടി കെട്ടിടമുണ്ടാക്കി വേണ്ട സാമാനങ്ങളും സംഭരിച്ചു അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരേയും നിയമിച്ചു സ്ക്കൂൾ നടത്തിത്തുടങ്ങുന്നു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് വേണ്ട പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തി സ്ക്കൂളിനു അംഗീകാരവും നൽകുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഏറിയ കാലത്തെ നയത്തെ ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഒരു പ്രൈവറ്റു വിദ്യാലയത്തിനു ഗ്രാൻറു കിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ള ഉത്തമവിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടിയാണ് സാധാരണ പ്രൈവറ്റു മാനേജുമെൻറു് ഇങ്ങനെ ഉദ്യമിക്കുന്നതെന്നുള്ളതു തർക്കമറ്റ സംഗതിയാണ്. ഈ വിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി ഗ്രാൻറിനപേക്ഷിക്കുമ്പോൾ "പണമില്ല" എന്ന സമാധാനം കുറച്ചുനാളുകളായി പറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു.

ഇതു സാധുക്കളായ നാട്ടുകാർ എങ്ങിനെ സഹിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു? ഇതിനു ശരിയായ ഉത്തരം ഗവണ്മെൻറു പറയണം. കരംകൊടുക്കുന്ന ഏവർക്കും അവരുടെ കുട്ടികളെ പഠിപ്പിച്ചുകിട്ടുന്നതിനു ന്യായമായ അവകാശമുണ്ട്. കയ്യിൽനിന്നും പണംചിലവാ

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ക്കി സ്ഥലവും കെട്ടിടവും സാമഗ്രികളുമുണ്ടാക്കിയാൽ പോരാ വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാ ക്ക ശമ്പളമുണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കാൻ ആരാണ് തയ്യാറാകുന്നത്? ഇതിനു ഗ വണ്മെൻറ് സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞു കഴിയും. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഉഭനാട്ടുകാ രുടെയും സാധുജനങ്ങളുടെയും ഇടയിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി മതി പ്പില്ലായ്മ ഇല്ലാതാകുന്നതാണ്. (ചിരി)

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Is the member aware that two negatives make an affirmative?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ഇംഗ്ലീഷു ഗ്രാമറാണ് ചോദി ച്ചതെങ്കിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു അറിയാവുന്നതുപോലെ എനിക്കും അ റിയാം.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is a rule of English Grammar and you talk in Malayalam.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): മതിപ്പില്ലായ്മയുണ്ടാവുന്നതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനഭിമാനക്കുറവാണോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറി നു അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു നില ഇതുവരെ വന്നിട്ടില്ല എന്നാണ് എന്റെ വി ശ്വാസം; അങ്ങിനെ വരരുതെന്നാണ് എന്റെ ആഗ്രഹവും. അതിനാ ൽ പണമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു ഗ്രാന്റു കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്ന നയം നല്ലത ല്ല. സ്റ്റാഡിലീവിനു ൩,൦൦൦ രൂപായും ലാഡ്ജിംഗിനു ൧,൦൦൦൦ ഇങ്ങനെ ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിനു മടികാണിക്കാതിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ സംഗ തിയിൽ വൈമനസ്യം കാണിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have rung the second bell.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, a good deal has been said with respect to the encouragement due to the grant-in-aid educational institutions in the State. The eagerness with which the subject was harped upon evidently left aside the other side of the question which cannot however be lost sight of. In the general discussion upon the budget, I set forth my views as to how the budget of a modern State should be prepared and I stressed why the budget was not properly framed. I said then that the well-being of the inhabitants of the State has to be the primary consideration of the State and I pointed out that the budget presented to us is defective in various respects viewed from that standpoint. First of all, the health of all the people of the State is the prime consideration. We have been hearing a good deal about the inadequacy of hospitals and dispensaries in the State. With respect to public health, we heard a good deal that adequate provision has not been made for the prevention of epidemics like malaria in various parts of the State.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are we concerned with the general budget now?

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I am referring to the general budget to show the motion is ill-concieved.

We heard a good deal on the deficiency of provisions in the P. W. D. Budget. Now we have come to the Education Department. It is said that the adequate provision has not been made for education. Well, at the same time we want Land Revenue to be reduced by 50 per cent. If the revenues of the State would permit it, I certainly would have agreed with those who say that adequate provision has not been made for education. A sum of forty-eight lakhs of rupees has been provided for education; and looking at the revenues and the requirements of the State as a whole, with a restraining sense of responsibility, where is the stinting in the matter of education? The plea of the deficiency of funds at the command of the Government, if well established, must certainly be respected. Forty-eight lakhs has been budgetted. It is not a light amount. Mr. Thanu Pillai who said that more should be spent upon primary education did not say that the amount to be spent upon Education as a whole should be increased. He asked why higher education cannot be discouraged and the amount thus saved cannot be spent on primary education. In other words, he wants a diversion of funds. I am sceptical about the wisdom of curtailing higher education; but if the department is prepared to do that, and if on account of the standarisation of pay, a reduction of expense on the department is possible, I have no quarrel with the suggestion that the amount saved may be used for primary education. But the contention that, even if funds would not permit, the allotment for 'grant-in-aid should be increased, is something which I cannot by any means accept. No doubt, some of the grant-in-aid institutions are rendering good service. No question about that. Similarly service may be rendered by persons starting hospitals. All these persons would deserve consideration at the hands of the Government. The question would, however, remain whether it is possible to offer aid in all such cases. When the Head of the Department, a responsible officer like Mr. Chandrasekharan, states before the House that ,though he is inclined to view the matter sympathetically, he can find no means for anything more, why should it entirely fail to weigh with the House? All those who have started private educational institutions are acclaimed as generous, while the Government are put down as niggardly. I do not contend to minimise the glory of the private adventurers. Let me, however, add that any one can start a school and make a claim for an educational grant. Where are we to stop? The educational benefactors are prepared to obtrude their services on us and to contend that they are treated scurvily.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Are there not rules restricting the opening of schools?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): How can you enact a rule forbidding generosity in the shape of educational expansion?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Are there not now rules for paying grants?

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): There are rules; but they are binding on Government, since they are the authors of the rules. further, if every school is a symbol of generosity and self-sacrifice, rules restricting their sprouting must necessarily be sorry ones.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it the member's view that those rules are to be observed?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is a question of conflict of laws?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I do not know what rules are to be observed and by whom. If rules are enacted, they have to be observed. I know there are certain rules governing grant-in-aid. If the rules prohibit self-sacrifice and generosity, they need not be observed.

The question of primary consideration is one of funds. If the funds would not permit the granting of any assistance to a private institution, we are at the fundamental rule. Why is it not a rule? So what I am submitting is I find it extremely difficult to understand the reasonableness of this motion when the State Budget is what it is. Then there is the question of relief of poverty and wretchedness of the teachers employed. Wretchedness and poverty exist in other spheres also. Why do you particularly select the teacher in the grant-in-aid school and effuse over his wretchedness? There is wretchedness among graduates, why should not the State take that into consideration? The grant-in aid teacher is not so qualified as many others. He enters private institutions, gets Rs. 8 by way of grant which, when disbursed, would at least be Rs.4 or 5. Further the manager has not much to sacrifice. He is also a wretched man. In these circumstances, particularly to select the teacher in the primary school as the most entitled to relief in the world is an unaballanced impulse, however noble it may be. That is my humble view.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us try to create a healthy convention, especially with regard to members of a particular party who sit near each other.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Sir, there appears to be some misunderstanding about the matter under discussion in this House. The motion made by Mr. Asan and the argument advanced in support of that do not really lead us on to the discussion that is now before the House. The question that has continually arisen under this motion is this. In 1110, there was a certain policy adopted by the Education Department in regard to the distribution of grants in aid of vernacular schools. That policy is condemned by us. We want to impress in order to effect a reform and the present policy adopted is that the Director has to travel more. Why I say is is this. In 1110 the Government really wanted to effect a retrenchment in the sum allotted for disbursing grants-in-aid of Vernacular Schools and grant-in-aid institutions. The Director was instructed to effect a cut. He directed the Divisional Inspectors to carry out the behests of Government and the Divisional Inspectors communicated that matter to the Assistant Inspectors. These Assistant Inspectors reported about the efficiency of

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[Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai.]

schools receiving grants and this was again reported to the Director. So in regard to the subordinate officers of the Department, they were asked to find out means for effecting a cut. Threfore the whole matter which passed between the Director and Inspectors can be seen in the pages of Educational Code.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, that is a travesty of fact.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Statements have been repeatedly made by the Director of Public Instruction———

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You don't disbelieve the statement of the Director of Public Instruction?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): I do not. But Sir, it is an achievement of a policy by different methods and the expression of it in a different language. Sir, what really happened was the Inspectors inspected the schools and reported that they were entitled to grant. But grant had to be refused, because Government wanted a retrenchment. But Government said that that was not the reason but they wanted to enforce the rules. The reasons alleged are various. The Divisional Inspectors were asked to inspect the schools and report to the Director and we come to the conclusion and I believe a correct conclusion that Government have achieved what they had in mind and the explanation they give now is probably only a colour variation of what has actually taken place. I am prepared to substantiate facts and figures which I give. Sir, the Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors happend to misread and misunderstand the orders of Government. Such a case happened in Quilon and Trivandrum. These two places possess the most efficient Divisional Inspectors who understand English language to the same extent as any one of us here present. They happened to misread the orders of the Director of Public Instruction. They communicated the nature of the object of those orders to their various subordinates and notices in accordance with that direction were given to those managers to the effect that their grants are retained; but subsequently those grants were withheld they said, on some other reasons. That reason was found out to be, so far as all the institutions were concerned, very flimsy ones. I can understand that the mistaken idea given to the order could not be put into effect but subsequently the reasons advanced for cancelling those orders are very flimsy. In the course of an enquiry instituted at an institute they found out a reason for cancelling its grants. In one case the Divisional Inspector said that the southern window of the school was not repaired and so grant was withheld. The Assistant Inspector went to the school one day and he found that the Mistress had a lint covering her face and that was against the Educational Rules and so grant was withheld. Every teacher should appear in proper dress so as not to provoke laughter from the children. That is what the rule prescribes. In the absence of any other reasons———

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know from the member whether what he says is from imagination or from facts?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) *II* : Sir, everything under the sun was brought in the Education Code. I submit, Sir, that these trivial grounds like the northern window of a particular school or the southern side of the building much plastered or some patches on the southern side of the wall or the floor being not properly swept —these are reasons advanced to cancel grants for the school.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT You are attacking the rules of the Education Code.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : No, Sir I am attacking the grounds on which the grants were refused to schools after the issue of orders.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Is the member aware that the money thus saved is spent on other more deserving schools in the same area?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Sir, it is not exactly about the spending of money thus saved, but it is upon the report submitted to the Director by the Division Inspectors that I speak. Sir, it leads to a lot of corruption which ought to be prevented. If you say that Government are not in a position to pay them grants an account of the financial stringency, I can understand that. If you say that rules have been infringed upon by petty negligences as I stated above and so grants are withheld after giving them information that they will be given grant, Sir, the kind of behaviour on the part of Government will lead to corruption and discontent it may also lead to want of confidence in the directorate among the public in general. Sir, a huge amount of Rs. 5 lakhs is distributed as grant to the Vernacular Primary Schools. And a very large number of people are interested in this matter. Sir, I am not concerned about the loud complaints made by the managers and school masters. But we want, Sir, to build up this institution of grant in aid on healthy lines. We want to see that as far as possible such flimsy reasons are not advanced by the Director for cancelling grants. The Inspectors should not be encouraged to send up reports based on flimsy reasons, but the morale of the department should be maintained-

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Does the member want that really unnecessary schools should be given aid?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Sir, unnecessary and really badly managed schools should be abolished. I am for a very rigorous policy which will not countenance dishonesty.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Sir, we are not now considering the question of giving aid to introduce agriculture or the Rubber Factory. But we are considering one of the most important functions of the State, that is, the maintaining of educational institutions for the advancement of education in the State. Sir, in considering question of State-aid to educational institutions we, have to take into account that the grant-in-aid schools have advanced the cause

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[Mr. Pacode A. Narayana Pillai.]

of education in Travancore to a very large extent. In fact the high literacy which is a legitimate pride of Travancore is to a very large extent due to the liberal system of grant-in-aid policy followed by the Government in the past. No doubt, Sir, in the course of working out the rules relating to grant-in-aid, certain bad features have crept into the institutions. We had heard of schools which were receiving grant-in-aid while at the same time there was no such institutions at all. There were similar defects in the working of the schools. This led to a very searching enquiry by an expert body of educationists; and as a result of that, it was found that it is high time to cry halt in the pursuit of our old policy. Well, Sir, one of the recommendations of that committee appointed to go into the question of grant-in aid institutions is that, though a large majority of educational institutions that were receiving grants was really doing very useful work in the interest of real education at the same time the very unpleasant and disquieting fact was disclosed as a result of the enquiry, namely, the existence of some institutions which do not deserve any encouragement at the hands of Government. Some such institutions have also crept into the field of education. These have to be suppressed.

Are we to encourage institutions which are not quite desirable? That is the question which arises in this connection. No doubt, we have to encourage institutions which are rendering really useful service. But, are we to encourage all manner of educational institutions irrespective of the question whether they are being run efficiently or not? That is the very pertinent question now being raised by the Department.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : കുട്ടികൾ സ്കൂളിൽ പഠിക്കേണ്ടതില്ലേ?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : വേണം. അവർ നല്ലപള്ളിക്കൂടത്തിൽ പഠിക്കയും നല്ല സ്വഭാവം ഉള്ളവരാകുകയും വേണം.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): നല്ല പള്ളിക്കൂടം ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ എന്തുചെയ്യണം?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : നല്ല പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതു ഉണ്ടാക്കണം.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : These are all matters of opinion. You may proceed, Mr. Narayana Pillai.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) The real position is whether the pruning knife has not to be applied now to the growth of these grant-in-aid institutions in very large numbers. I do not think the Government have made their final pronouncement on the matter. That is what I understand. So far as I am able to see, the year 1109 as well as the current year forms a kind of transition period; and

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undesirable institutions had to be discouraged and closed down. There cannot be any difference of opinion in that matter. But, the question arises whether it was an entirely correct policy that the department has been pursuing in this matter. I should again say, Sir, that, if an institution is found to be undesirable, it is better to close it down. Our ideal, at any rate so far as primary education is concerned, is that there must be free, universal, compulsory primary education. That is my ideal, Sir. We must strive to reach that ideal as early as possible. I should therefore strongly recommend to Government the adoption of a very liberal attitude in the matter of giving grants-in-aid. In their anxiety to close down schools in the interest of economy and retrenchment, Government should not blindly close down schools even in places where education is a vital need of the people and where they have no other school, nor withdraw grants-in-aid from such schools.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-4 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,

Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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